AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace paragraph (on page 6, line 26 – page 7, line 4) with the following:

-- The above scenario is characteristic of a satellite communication system. For the purposes of explanation, the operation of the queueing mechanism according to an embodiment of the present invention, is discussed with respect to a satellite communication system with transmission constraints to the downlink cells. However, it should be noted that the approach has applicability to many other switching systems, as recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, the switching systems may include an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode)/SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) network, a Gigabit Ethernet network, ~~and~~ or a voice network. The end stations of these systems are referred to as destination sites. Accordingly, the destination sites in a satellite system would be downlink cells. --

Please replace paragraph (on page 7, lines 5-12) with the following:

-- Figure 3 shows a satellite communication system with an on-board switch, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The communication system 300 is a packet-switched satellite communication system, which includes a satellite payload 301 that has a switch 302. The switch 302 is connected to multiple transmitters 303; that is, N transmitters. Switch 302 includes a downlink scheduler 309, and a constraint check logic 311. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the downlink scheduler (DLS) 309, and constraint check logic 311 may be implemented via software, hardware (e.g., general processor, an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC), etc.), firmware or a combination thereof. --